F I L E *Training*

4 MAY 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Programmed Instruction

1. On 2 May 1966 I attended a meeting in the Office of the Director
of Training at Broyhill Building called by [   ] to hear [   ] and   **STATINTL**
STATINTL   [   ] report on what they had heard and learned at the annual confer-
ence of the Association for Programmed Instruction. Also present were:
STATINTL   [   ] from the Office
of Medical Services; and John Richardson and [   ] from the Office   **STATINTL**
of Training.

STATINTL   2. [   ] commented about each of several of the lectures he had
heard. Points he mentioned which seemed to strike the most responsive note
among those present were the estimate that 75 man hours are required to
prepare one hour of programmed instruction and that this must be done by
the instructor in the course which is to be programmed supported by a
consultant who is expert in programming instruction. It should be noted that
the programmed instruction discussed at this meeting was not computer based
or computer assisted. One of the points mentioned [   ] was the   **STATINTL**
fact that very little programmed instruction is actually computer compatible.

STATINTL   3. [   ] described briefly several of the experimental applications
he had heard about at the conference. The point which seemed to strike the
STATINTL   most responsive cord from [   ] discussion was that while there
has been a great deal of experimental work with a variety of programmed
instruction courses in the "hard sciences," there has been very little done
with social sciences or language. Most of that which is available is still
experimental or deals with very elementary levels of education and validation
of the programs which are in use still has some distance to go.

   STATINTL

4. In the discussion which followed the presentations by [   ] and
STATINTL   [   ] I got the very distinct impression that the Agency can expect to
receive recommendations that we move forward with several courses in pro-
grammed instruction and that these recommendations may be met with some
STATINTL   reticence. [   ] suggested that programmed instruction techniques

might be applied in some of the management courses as well as courses in tradecraft. Mr. Richardson and ⬚ on the other hand, seemed STATINTL to feel that programmed instruction courses in tradecraft would not be acceptable to the Clandestine Services because of their reluctance to accept "canned" courses which smack of the "school solution." ⬚ made STATINTL the point that case officer training depends upon human interaction and the case officer's application of tradecraft techniques will vary with circumstances and the particular environment in which he is applying them. This seemed to me to be the most telling point made during the whole discussion. The success of programmed instruction depends upon the extent to which the subject matter lends itself, and the ability of the instructor, to identify a finite number of alternative right and wrong answers to a given question. Considering the amount of time necessary to develop one hour of programmed instruction, the subject matter of the course should not be subject to very frequent change. In our business, language instruction seems to be the most logical candidate. However, in the current climate of manpower shortages, OTR feels they cannot afford the luxury of assigning two, or even one, language instructor full time to the development of a language course to meet our needs. The pressure is building and will intensify even

STATINTL more. ⬚ is almost certain to recommend that we develop some programmed instruction courses. ORD is quite vocal about having the money to support a contract for the development of programmed instruction courses, so everyone seems to want to charge ahead except OTR people who say they don't have the personnel. Mr. Richardson did suggest that it might be possible to use some of their WAE contract instructors, but the question of whether anyone would be willing to accept this arrangement in terms of course content and instructional technique must still be answered.

⬚ STATINTL

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Deputy Director for Support

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